

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2247

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO JCS

CINCPAC

S E C R E T BANGKOK 5774

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, TH

SUBJECT: REDUCTIONS IN US MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND

REFS: A. CINCPAC TO JCS 032047Z APR 74

B. CINCPAC TO JCS 060301Z APR 74

1. YOU ARE AWARE OF THE STUDIES BEING CARRIED OUT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO MAKE DECISIONS ON THE REDUCTION, CONSOLIDATION AND COMBINATION OF US MILITARY UNITS IN THAILAND CONSISTENT WITH THE NEW POLITICAL SITUATION IN THIS COUNTRY AND OUR CAPACITY TO CARRY OUT OUR FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THIS AREA. COMUSMACTHAI, ASSISTED BY MAJOR GENERAL TANBERG OF CINCPAC AND WITH THE COOPERATION OF MILITARY COMMANDERS IN THAILAND, REVIEWED US MILITARY FORCES HERE AND MADE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCTIONS AND REORGANIZATION.

2. COMUSMACTHAI'S REPORT WAS FORWARDED TO CINCPAC FOR ITS REVIEW AND COMMENT. IN REFTELS ADMIRAL GAYLER HAS FORWARDED TO THE JCS HIS RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THE MACT REPORT. REFTELS DO NOT MENTION FOLLOWING UNITS FOR WHICH MACT RECOMMENDED NO CHANGE IN SIZE OR LOCATION:

6201 AEROSPACE SUPPORT SQUADRON; 17 RADAR SQUADRON;

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6300 AEROSPACE SUPPORT SQUADRON; DET 1, 1985 COMMUNICATIONS

SQUADRON (THESE FOUR UNITS ARE CO-LOCATED AT KO KHA AIR STATION AND PROVIDE INPUT TO THE SPACE DEFENSE CENTER IN NORAD-CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN COMPLEX); DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY LIAISON OFFICE (1 CIVILIAN, DAO BANGKOK); US NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE, THAILAND (2 CIVILIAN, UDORN RTAFB); AND 1156 TECHNICAL OPERATION SQUADRON, DET 415, CHIANG MAI, 19 MILITARY SPACES, REPORTING TO AFTAC.

3. MY OWN RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE ENSURING THAT THE US MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND IS AS STREAMLINED AS POSSIBLE, CONSISTENT WITH THE CHANGED POLITICAL SITUATION AND AT THE SAME TIME MAINTAINING THE CAPACITY TO CARRY OUT OUR FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THIS AREA.

4. I AM NOT SUPPORTING OR ENDORSING THE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY COMUSMACTHAI THROUGH CINCPAC, AND I AM WELL AWARE OF THE TIME PRESSURE UNDER WHICH HIS REVIEW WAS CONDUCTED. I BELIEVE NEVERTHELESS THAT THE INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE MACTHAI REPORT WILL BE OF REAL VALUE IN REACHING DECISIONS ON THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT IN WASHINGTON. I FULLY ENDORSE PARAGRAPH 2C OF THAT REPORT WHICH READS:

REVIEW IS JUDGMENTAL IN NATURE WITH CRITERIA "ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL" APPLIED. IN SOME CASES, SUGGESTIONS ARE COUNTER TO SERVICE POLICY AND PREFERENCE, JOINT DOCTRINE, AND PAST AND PRESENT METHODS OF DOING DOD BUSINESS IN THAILAND. WITH VIEW THAT THERE WILL BE MORE PROPONENTS FOR AN AGENCY/ACTIVITY THAN AGAINST, COMUSMACTHAI HAS TAKEN ROLE OF CRITIC IN REVIEW.
KINTNER

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